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Nozomu Okuzawa

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

BROMELL, ALEXANDRIA Y

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/568,968	Applicant(s) OKUZAWA, NOZOMU	
	Examiner ALEXANDRIA Y. BROMELL	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 - 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 - 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 31, 2008 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the Restriction requirement of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the Restriction requirement of the Office Action mailed October 21, 2008 is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 31, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A. Applicant argues that "the '952 patent fails to disclose retrieval means for retrieving at least the attribute information of the at least two taste information searched by the search means" (remarks, page 17).

B. Applicant argues that "the '952 patent fails to disclose transmission means for transmitting the retrieved attribute information to a terminal apparatus of a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information" (remarks, pages 17 - 18).

C. Applicant argues that “for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 31-33 patentably define over the ‘952 patent” (remarks, page 19).

D. Applicant argues that “independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 21, 26, and 31-33 and all associated dependent claims patentably define over the ‘952 patent” (remarks, page 19).

Examiner respectfully disagrees all of the allegations as argued. Examiner, in her previous office action, gave a detailed explanation of the claimed limitations and pointed out exact locations in the cited prior art. All claim limitations are taught by Wilens.

Examiner is entitled to give claim limitations their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the specification. See MPEP 2111 [R-1].

Interpretation of Claims-Broadest Reasonable Interpretation

During patent examination, the pending claims must be ‘given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification.’ Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 162 USPQ 541,550-51 (CCPA 1969).

Examiner likes to point out that in the “Schering Corp. v. Geneva Pharmaceuticals Inc., 64 USPQ2d 1032 (DC NJ 2002) Decided August 8, 2002.”

In the above case it is concluded that the prior art **disclosure need not be express in order to anticipate** (cited location has nothing to do with applicant’s

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invention). Even if a prior art inventor does not recognize a function of his or her process, the process can anticipate if that function was inherent. To establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and **that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill. Inherency is not necessarily coterminous with the knowledge of those of ordinary skill in the art.** Artisans of ordinary skill may not recognize the inherent characteristics or functioning of the prior art. However, the discovery of a previously unappreciated property of a prior art composition, or of a scientific explanation for the prior art's functioning, does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. Insufficient prior understanding of the inherent properties of a known composition does not defeat a finding of anticipation.

With respect to argument A, Examiner responds that Wilens teaches that when creating a group, users may specify more than two preferences to search in order to match with members of their group (column 5, lines 64 – 67, column 6, lines 1 - 8, column 6, lines 29 - 54, also see Fig. 6D and Fig. 7).

With respect to argument B, Examiner responds that Wilens teaches that when creating a group, users may specify their match criteria to search in order to match with members of their group (column 5, lines 64 – 67, column 6, lines 1 - 8, column 6, lines 29 - 54, also see Fig. 6D, Fig. 7, and Fig. 7).

With respect to argument C, Examiner responds that Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the

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claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

With respect to argument D, Examiner responds that Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

In view of the above, the examiner contends that all limitations as recited in the claims have been addressed in this Action.

For the above reasons, Examiner believed that rejection of the last Office action was proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 and 11-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Peter Wilens (U.S. Patent 7092952), hereinafter, "Wilens."

With respect to claim 1, Wilens teaches reception means for receiving a plurality of taste information that represents respective tastes of a plurality of users from a

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plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61), storage means for storing the received plurality of taste information and attribute information corresponding to each of the plurality of users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), search means for searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), retrieval means for retrieving at least the attribute information of the at least two taste information searched by the search means (i.e. a search can be done for only married men, for example, or can display characteristics your friend must not have, column 9, lines 9-15), and transmission means for transmitting the retrieved attribute information to a terminal apparatus of a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1).

With respect to claim 11, Wilens teaches a reception step of receiving a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile in database, column 2, lines 59-61), a search step of searching

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for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in a predetermined storage unit (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15, and database stores profiles from many subscribers, claim 1), and a transmission step of transmitting at least attribute information of the at least two taste information searched in the step to a terminal apparatus of a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information (i.e. users taste may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, column 3, line 1, and user may search for users that have similar attributes, so that information is transmitted between the server database and the user, column 9, lines 9-14).

With respect to claim 12, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that corresponds to the at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. group creator may set the number of group members, who are matched to join the group by specific criteria or attributes, column 6, lines 29-39).

With respect to claim 13, Wilens teaches the reception step receives a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the search step searches for taste information including

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the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission step transmits at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and that corresponds to the at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51).

With respect to claim 14, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits at least the at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and corresponds to the at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 15, Wilens teaches the reception step receives a part of the plurality of taste information as search key information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit (i.e. in order to match taste information or

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create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission step transmits the at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of users belong to and corresponds to the at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51).

With respect to claim 16, Wilens teaches a transmission step of transmitting first taste information that represents the taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent respectively the tastes of a plurality of users (i.e. user accesses database that has profiles of other users stored, claim 1), and a reception step of receiving attribute information of at least two taste information, the attribute information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus of the user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information, after searching for the at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. when users set up their profiles, they specify their preferences, or tastes, which allow the users to gain membership to a group, column 8, lines 38-67, and user may search for users that have similar attributes, so that information is transmitted between the server database and the user, column 9, lines 9-14).

With respect to claim 17, Wilens teaches the reception step receives group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 18, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus (i.e. users set specific keys, or preferences, that are stored in the computer database, column 9, lines 1-10), and the reception step receives group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. members are admitted to a group if they have similar tastes, or preferences, and computer database receives specific preferences in order to match individual users with a group, column 6, lines 8-67).

With respect to claim 19, Wilens teaches the reception step receives the at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the at least two taste information as the attribute information, the second taste information and the group information being

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information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching (i.e. users are added to groups when their preferences, or tastes fit the matching criteria for group membership, column 7, lines 25-46).

With respect to claim 20, Wilens teaches the transmission step transmits a part of the taste information as search key information to the predetermined apparatus (i.e. user key specifies user preferences and tastes, column 9, lines 1-10), and the reception step receives the at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. users input their personal profiles with preferences and tastes, and groups are created to match users with similar tastes, column 8, line 38- column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 21, Wilens teaches a reception unit configured to receive a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, and when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), a storage unit configured to store the received plurality of taste information and attribute information corresponding

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to the plurality of other users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), a search unit configured to search for at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage unit (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), a retrieval unit configured to retrieve at least the attribute information of the at least two taste information searched by the search unit (i.e. a search can be done for only married men, for example, or can display characteristics your friend must not have, column 9, lines 9-15), and a transmission unit configured to transmit the retrieved attribute information to a terminal apparatus of the user corresponding to any one of at least two taste information and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1).

With respect to claim 22, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51, and (i.e. group members have

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similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 23, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as search key information (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10)), the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1, and group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 24, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51, and group members have similar specified preferences, or tastes, which determine if the user has been admitted to the group, column 9, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 25, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the plurality of taste information (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the

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user (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1, and information is transmitted on the computer about the groups that a user belongs to, and other groups that are available based on user preferences, column 8, lines 38-51).

With respect to claim 26, Wilens teaches a transmission unit configured to transmit taste information that represents a taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61), and a reception unit configured to receive attribute information of at least two taste information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the attribute information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus of the user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information, after searching for the at least two taste information having a resemblance to each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. a search can be done for only married men, for example, or can display characteristics your friend must not have, column 9, lines 9-15).

With respect to claim 27, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information (i.e.

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when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 28, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1), and the reception unit is configured to receive group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having the resemblance

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to the first taste information (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 29, Wilens teaches the reception unit is configured to receive the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein (i.e. users specify personal preferences or tastes in their profile, and are matched with groups that have the same characteristic requirements, column 8, line 38 – column 9, line 10).

With respect to claim 30, Wilens teaches the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1, and in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences,

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or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10), and the reception unit is configured to receive the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information (i.e. in order to match taste information or create a group, preferences, or stored search keys are compared, column 8, lines 38-51, and column 9, lines 1-10).

With respect to claim 31, Wilens teaches receiving first taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatuses of the plurality of users (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61), storing the received plurality of taste information and attribute information corresponding to the plurality of other users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), searching for at least two taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storing (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other

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users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), retrieving at least the attribute information of the at least two taste information searched in the searching (i.e. a search can be done for only married men, for example, or can display characteristics your friend must not have, column 9, lines 9-15), and transmitting the retrieved attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1).

With respect to claim 32, Wilens teaches reception means for receiving a plurality of taste information that represents a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51), storage means for storing a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users and attribute information corresponding to the plurality of other users (i.e. database stores user profiles which have preferences from many subscribers, claim 1, the profiles identify subscribers that have common preferences, or attributes, column 2, lines 54-61), search means for searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means (i.e. users can search to match themselves with other users, column 9, lines 31-50, and users are matched based on their personal tastes and preferences, column 3, lines 9-15), and transmission means for transmitting at least the attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste

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information to the terminal apparatus of the user when the reception means receives the first taste information (i.e. computer system transmits information about users taste, which may be biographical information, or information about personal preference, column 2, lines 66-67, and column 3, line 1).

With respect to claim 33, Wilens teaches transmission means for transmitting first taste information that represents a taste of a user to a server (i.e. subscriber registers and stores personal profile, which is received and stored in database, column 2, lines 59-61, accessed by web servers, column 4, lines 23-30), reception means for receiving at least attribute information of at least two taste information, from the server, the attribute information being transmitted to a terminal apparatus of a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information (i.e. when user sets up profile, they input personal information and preferences that are used as search keys for the system, column 8, lines 38-51) and registration means for registering the received attribute information as said user's attribute information, wherein the at least two taste information have a resemblance to each other and are searched by the server from a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users stored in the server (i.e. server is used to store and access subscriber information, with user profiles and groups, column 4, lines 23-50).

Conclusion/Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEXANDRIA Y. BROMELL whose telephone number is (571)270-3034. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Alexandria Y Bromell/
Examiner, Art Unit 2167
January 31, 2009

/S. A. A./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162

/John R. Cottingham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167